

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08944 281349Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SSO-00 /038 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4500

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08944

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR BOYD.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR TALKS: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
UK FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 119502

1. FCO HAS ADVISED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN DOES NOT
PLAN TO RAISE SUBJECT OF US-UK CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH SECRETARY AT TUESDAY, MAY 31 MEETING.

2. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY IF SUBJECT IS
RAISED:

-- THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO ATTEMPTING TO REACH
A NEW AGREEMENT BY JUNE 21.

-- WHILE SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AMBASSADOR
BOYD INFORMS ME THAT WE REMAIN FAR APART ON A NUMBER OF
IMPORTANT ISSUES.

-- WE WOULD LIKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO HAVE BEEN
MADE BY JUNE 3 TO HAVE SOME CERTAINTY THAT AN AGREEMENT
IS POSSIBLE BY JUNE 21. THIS WOULD MINIMIZE INCONVEN-
IENCES TO AIRLINE PASSENGERS AND TO AIRLINES IN BOTH
OUR COUNTRIES.

-- WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE A DISRUPTION OF SERVICE.

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BUT AS THE PRESIDENT HAS TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER, WE
CANNOT ACCEPT AN AGREEMENT THAT HAS THE EFFECT OF
ENFORCING MARKET SHARE BALANCE AND TRUNCATING US AIRLINE
OPERATIONS BEYOND LONDON AND HONG KONG. GOVERNMENTS
SHOULD STAY OUT OF DETAILED CAPACITY AND SCHEDULING
DECISIONS.

3. STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

A. TWO SIDES REMAIN FAR APART ON MAIN NORTH ATLANTIC ISSUES OF (1) CONTROL OF AIRLINE CAPACITY, (2) NUMBER OF AIRLINES EACH COUNTRY CAN FLY ON EACH ROUTE, AND (3) RIGHTS OF US AIRLINES TO FLY BEYOND LONDON.

B. MAJOR DIFFERENCES ALSO REMAIN OVER PACIFIC ROUTES WHERE UK/HONG KONG ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESTRICT US AIRLINES RIGHTS TO FLY BEYOND HONG KONG IN ORDER TO TRANSFER REGIONAL CARRIAGE TO CATHAY PACIFIC AND ITS POOL PARTNERS.

C. BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO SIGNAL THAT THEY ARE PREPARING FOR CESSATION OF AIR SERVICES ON JUNE 21 IF AGREEMENT IS NOT RESOLVED. IN MY VIEW, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BY JUNE 3 WE MAKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ASSESS WHETHER WE ARE LIKELY TO REACH AGREEMENT BY JUNE 21, OR WHETHER WE NEED TO FOLLOW CONFRONTATION SCENARIO.

BREWSTER

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